

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for translating a first set of part numbers into a second set of part numbers for use in a design collaboration and supply chain management network, including

a set of client devices, wherein each client device included in said set is under the control of a user who wishes to engage in a business transaction that requires the usage of a part number;

a dedicated server remotely coupled to at least one client device included in said set of client devices, wherein said dedicated server provides a hub in said design collaboration and supply chain management network;

a database coupled to said dedicated server, wherein said database includes a set of proprietary part numbers, a set of universal part numbers and a set of associations between said proprietary part numbers and said set of universal part numbers;

a computer program coupled to said database, wherein said computer program includes instructions for translating said part numbers;

a communications network, for remotely coupling said set of client devices and said dedicated server.

2. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein each universal part number included in said set of universal part numbers is associated with one or more proprietary part numbers included in said set of proprietary part numbers.

3. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 1, also including a translation module for translating one or more part numbers associated with an order into different part numbers that the recipient of a document readily understands.

4. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 3, wherein said translation module is used to prepare commercial documents.

5. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 4, wherein said apparatus also includes a management module and rule base that identifies what parties may create associations between part numbers and enter new part numbers.

6. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said part numbers are associated with the titles of people who provide a specific service.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for translating a document that includes a first set of proprietary part numbers over a network, including steps of

receiving a first document including a first set of proprietary part numbers from a client ~~workstation~~ ~~workstations~~, wherein a user of said client workstation wishes to ~~engage~~ ~~engaged~~ in supply chain management, design collaboration, or the purchase or sale of services or fungible goods; ~~checking a database for said first set of proprietary part numbers;~~

translating said first set of proprietary part numbers into a set of universal part ~~numbers~~ ~~number~~;

determining ~~the~~ availability of one or more parts ~~a part~~ associated with said set of universal part ~~numbers~~ ~~number~~;

translating said set of universal part numbers into a second set of proprietary part numbers; and

generating a second document using the second set of proprietary part numbers that summarizes ~~summarizing~~ a transaction involving the ~~one or more parts associated with said universal part number, translating said document from said universal numbers into a proprietary part number included in said set of proprietary part numbers; and storing a record of said transaction in a~~ database.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 7, wherein each of said set of universal part ~~numbers~~ ~~number~~ is associated with other part numbers such as may be associated with different suppliers or manufacturers.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 7, wherein said steps of translating said first set of proprietary part numbers and said steps of translating said set of universal part numbers are performed by database includes a translation module that for translates translating one or more proprietary part numbers associated with said first document ~~an order~~ into different part numbers that the recipient of said second ~~a~~ document readily understands.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 9, wherein said translation module is used to prepare commercial documents.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 7, further comprising the step of identifying wherein ~~said database includes a management module and rule base that identifies~~ what parties may create associations between part numbers or enter new part numbers.

12. (Currently Amended) A memory, including a set of instructions executable by a processor, said set of instructions including instructions for

receiving a first document including a first set of proprietary part numbers from a client workstation ~~workstations~~, wherein a user of said client workstation wishes to engage ~~engaged~~ in supply chain management, design collaboration, or the purchase or sale of services or fungible goods; ~~checking a database for said first set of proprietary part numbers;~~

translating said first set of proprietary part numbers into a set of universal part numbers ~~number~~;

determining the availability of one or more parts ~~a part~~ associated with said set of universal part numbers ~~number~~;

translating said set of universal part numbers into a second set of proprietary part numbers; and

generating a second document using the second set of proprietary part numbers that summarizes ~~summarizing~~ a transaction involving the ~~one or more parts associated with said universal part number, translating said document from said universal numbers into a proprietary part number included in said set of proprietary part numbers; and storing a record of said transaction in a~~ database.

13. (Currently Amended) A memory as in claim 12, wherein each of said set of universal part numbers ~~number~~ is associated with other part numbers such as may be associated with different suppliers or manufacturers.

14. (Currently Amended) A memory as in claim 12, wherein said instructions for translating said first set of proprietary part numbers and said instructions for translating said set of universal part numbers further include ~~database includes~~ a translation module that ~~for~~ translates ~~translating~~ one or more proprietary part numbers associated with said first document ~~an order~~ into different part numbers that the recipient of said second ~~a~~ document readily understands.

15. (Original) A memory as in claim 14, wherein said translation module is used to prepare commercial documents.

16. (Currently Amended) A memory as in claim 12, wherein said instructions further include instructions for identifying ~~wherein said database includes a management module and rule base that identifies~~ what parties may create associations between part numbers or enter new part numbers.